

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2018 SPRING....ISSUE #2/4

*Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.*



Ames Historical Society Board:

Co-President	Sharon Wirth
Co-President	Peter Hallock
Secretary	Lynette Spicer
Treasurer	Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Keith Bystrom, Dan Franklin, Sarah Kassen, Mary Logsdon, Bonnie Norman, Clarke Pasley, Ryan Riley,
The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Staff:

Executive Director	Casie Vance
Research & Exhibits Manager	Alex Fejfar
Collections Manager	Carly Hlubek

Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance,
Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Headquarters: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Hours Tue. – Sat. 10 am - 4 pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232-2148
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org
Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Open Sundays 2-4 pm, June 10 to August 12 and by appointment from April to October. Closed November to March.

Don't Miss Summer Fun at Hoggatt School!



Ames' one-room first school is preserved on the grounds of Meeker School at 18th Street and Burnett Avenue.

Please join us for programs and open houses this summer!

Open Sundays 2 pm to 4 pm
from June 10 to August 12.
Programs start at 2:15pm.

Free and open to the public.

- Sunday, June 10, 2018 - 2 pm to 4 pm
Summer at Hoggatt Kickoff
Kick off our Hoggatt summer with music, ice cream, photo booth, soap-making.
All ages welcome.
- Sunday, June 17, 2018 - 2:15pm
The Great Hoggatt School Spelling Bee
Test your spelling skills in the Great Hoggatt School Spelling Bee.
Presented by Ryan Riley.
- Sunday, June 24, 2018 - 2:15pm
Are You Smarter Than A 1860s Eighth Grader?
In one-room school days, 8th graders had to pass an exam to graduate. Would you have graduated successfully from Hoggatt School? Take the test to find out!
Presented by Peter Hallock.
- Sunday, July 1, 2018 - 2:15pm
What's In Your Lunchbox? A 1860s Tasting Experience
School children in the 1860s ate very different lunches than students do today. Come taste what a lunch may have been like at Hoggatt School!
Presented by Glenn Sibbel.
- Sunday, July 8 and Sunday, August 12, 2018 – 2 pm to 4 pm
1860s Schoolyard Games
Join in the entertaining games that 1860s students played at recess!
Led by Ryan Riley.
- Sunday, July 15, 2018 - 2:15pm
Making Soap the Pioneer Way
Join a hands-on experience in making soap the old-fashioned way.
Presented by Shannon Bardole Foley.
- Sunday, July 22, 2018 - 2:15pm
Vintage Pencil Boxes: Children's Special Treasures
Pencil boxes were once an important accessory for the new school year. See a historical pencil box collection and try your hand at cursive writing.
Presented by Ginny Huntington and Gayle Huey.
- Sunday, July 29, 2018 - 2:15pm
A Great Detective Story: Finding the Lost Hoggatt School
Hear how Ames historian, Farwell Brown used his detective skills to find Ames's first school and save this community treasure from demolition. And try your hand at making butter the old-fashioned way!
Presented by Kathy Svec and Sharon Wirth.
- Sunday, August 5, 2018 - 2:15pm
Plants of the Iowa Prairie
Explore the many different types of prairie plants that once covered this region.
Presenter TBA.

More Hoggatt News

New At Hoggatt



A large, genuine slate blackboard formerly located at Roosevelt School was donated to the Society by Dean Jensen and RES Development. It

replaces two small boards and will more accurately portray how the school would have looked in the 1860s. Large blackboards were being manufactured commercially by 1840 and were found in almost every American school by the 1850s. Although Hoggatt's blackboard may have been wood painted black rather than slate due to its rural location and lack of railroad service at the time the school was built, the slate board will portray the correct look. The large surface will allow activities involving several children at the same time.

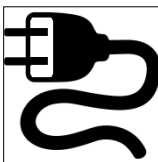
Co-president Sharon Wirth recently retired from Iowa State and her co-workers contributed funds that were donated to the Society. This \$200 plus a \$1,000 grant from Greater Iowa Credit Union was used to install the slate board in a historically accurate manner. Many thanks are due to Sharon and GICU!

And There's More...

→ Each spring, the Ames **Altrusa Club** organizes a Fashion Show with proceeds going to area non-profits. This year, the Society was a recipient, with \$2,000 going toward projects at Hoggatt. Altrusa has been a wonderful supporter of Society projects over the years and we are very grateful!



→ **Nelson Electric** will generously donate their services to run an electrical line from Meeker School. When Hoggatt was moved in 2015, conduit was laid, entering the school in a non-conspicuous place to maintain historic integrity. Having electricity in the school will allow us to use audio-visual equipment or present programs at night - and we'll be able to plug in a vacuum to make short work of cleaning!



→ The first 2018 **MEMBERS AFTER HOURS** event will take place at Hoggatt on Thursday, June 21, from 4 to 6 pm. 1860s-themed refreshments will be served – and everyone can test out that great new chalkboard! Watch for your invitation in the mail in June.

Lecture Series Continues

Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library in the library auditorium, 515 Douglas. Free & open to the public. Assisted hearing device available on request.

Wednesday May 23, 7pm

Peopling Iowa:

First Generation Immigrants in Story County

By Mark Barron, *Iowa State University* public historian and Michael Belding, *ISU* doctoral candidate in history

The story of immigration is an integral part of Iowa's history. Based on the work of Iowa State University history students,



Mark and Michael will discuss how first generation immigrant groups arrived into Story County, where they settled and how they helped transform the landscape of Central Iowa. Please join us as we explore the history of Story County's first European settlers.

Tuesday June 26, 2018, 7pm

The Manhattan Project's Secret Weapon:

Dr. Harley Wilhelm

Teresa Wilhelm Waldof, author: *The Boy from Pumptown: The Scientist Who Solved the Manhattan Project's Uranium Problem*



When the U.S. declared war against Japan and Germany after the 1941 Pearl Harbor attacks, one thing became clear: the atomic bomb project would need to move forward at a breakneck pace. To succeed, the project needed millions of pounds of purified uranium but the metal did not exist in those quantities. Uranium was discovered 150 years earlier, but no one had successfully purified it. Dr. Harley Wilhelm, a chemist at Iowa State, was recruited to work on this problem. The son of a southern Iowa sharecropper was an unlikely character to change world history. His life is an untold story, one which enabled the United States to win the war.

SPECIAL ADD-ON LECTURE

Tuesday, May 15, 7pm at Ames Public Library

Making Waves: Broadcasting in Iowa

Jeff Stein, author, broadcaster and educator

In the 20th century, radio and TV exploded onto the scene and completely changed our lives. The development of broadcasting in Iowa was groundbreaking. Stein will cover the earliest days of both radio and television with original broadcasts, photos and memorabilia – including the famous and beloved **Floppy Show!**

Local Stories – the Ames High SPIRIT Yearbook

A History of The Spirit Yearbook

Excerpts of a history written about The Spirit by Dorothy Duckworth, class of 1926, in the 1925 Spirit.

The first attempt at a yearbook at Ames High School was published in 1911 and was named The Meteor. There was much discussion among the faculty when this publication was trying to come to life, but the students were very persistent and finally had their consent to try their ability.

The class of 1913 had a hard time making ends meet, but the 1914 class, determined to see it through, took up the work the next year and made a success of it. Each graduating class for several years after that had an Annual and most of them had several news sheets or 'literaries.'

The class of 1919 published a very good Annual, but left a deficit of about two hundred dollars, which the next class had to pay. In spite of this, however, the 1920 class succeeded in publishing ten news sheets, three literary editions and an exceedingly good Annual.

The class of 1922 was not allowed to have an Annual because of lack of money. In 1923 there was a great deal of trouble and heated discussion in regard to an Annual, but through the efforts of the parents, the class received permission to print one. It proved to be a great success and they sold every copy.

The class of 1924 had no trouble whatever in printing a Spirit and they printed a very good number. All of these attempts were very good, but not until 1925 did the Spirit staff succeed in printing an Annual which they thought would please everybody. *End of excerpt.*

The Spirit is still in print today – and according to veteran Ames High staffer, Bill Ripp, "It will be until eternity!" It is especially



interesting to browse the books that were produced over a span of time to see how they changed and how they reflect the time in which they were put together. Yearbooks are unique in that they are books for students, by students and

each one has its own personality.

April's Lecture Series speaker, Pam Riney-Kehrberg, told the audience about how she has used high school

yearbooks to uncover a wealth of information about student attitudes during the 1980s farm crisis.

The Ames High Exhibit features a section on The Spirit, and a shelf that includes all of our reference copies for visitors to browse. If Ames High alums have extra copies, we are missing these years: 1953, 1978, 2015, 2016, and 2017. And we would take additional copies of anything pre-1930 since those are so delicate.

And There's More...

➔ In the last newsletter, we listed all the named Ames High Distinguished Alums. Here are a few updates:

- **Kathie Obradovich** was recently promoted to Opinion Page Editor at the Des Moines Register.
- **Ted Kooser** compiles the weekly *American Life* in Poetry column that is syndicated and (happily) featured in the Ames Tribune each Saturday.
- **Brian Jenkins**, '76, CNN correspondent, will speak at the Annual Benefit Dinner on August 25.
- Writer **Susan Allen Toth's** most recent book, *No Saints Around Here: A Caregiver's Days*, chronicles her devotion to her husband in his final days.
- **Jacqueline Andre Schmeal's** Iowa Barn Foundation, gives tours of noteworthy preserved Iowa barns each spring and fall. See IBF's website.

➔ In April, 84% of Ames voters approved a \$110 million bond issue to build a new Ames High School and provide additions to three elementary schools. The new high school will be built on the present playing fields.

Ames High Exhibit Continues



The current exhibit at the History Center, "Ames High Aiming High Through the Years" features the four buildings that, through time, have housed our city's high school. It will be on view at 416

Douglas to August 11.

Included is a wall of names of all 26,738 Ames High graduates.

Visitors are encouraged to highlight their names

and those of their families and friends who may not have a chance to do it themselves.

A High School Remembrance

In reference to an article in the Ames Tribune about the Ames High exhibit, an anonymous writer penned this remembrance: "My late husband first graduated in the 1939 building (at 6th and Clark), went to school at 7:30am attending only morning classes and carried books home. The other half of the high school went in the afternoon. Great teachers made it work. I went to the 1890s building in 7th grade. There was no unison in going on the stairs! And, there was a huge study/assembly hall with a stage. Again, phenomenal teachers. I came to Central from Roosevelt – quite a contrast. Coming out of the Great Depression we can all handle anything!"

News briefs

- The **Annual Ice Cream Social** will take place Sat., June 16, noon to 3pm at the History Center, 416 Douglas. Free and open to the public. Family fun!
- When shopping on Amazon, remember to log in to Amazon's charitable giving program, Amazon Smile, (smile.amazon.com) to return a portion of your purchases to the Society!
- **Hallway exhibits** at the History Center are:
 - Fly With Banning – **New!**
 - Ames Bottlers – **New!**
 - Artifacts from the Attic: Dolls
 - A City Afloat: Floods of the 1990s
- Join the 2,357 people who "like" us on Facebook. The historical photos that appear each week in the **Ames Tribune** are posted on our Facebook page. We enjoy the reactions and comments!
- Don't forget to take a look at and ask to be "friended" on the "**Lost Ames**" Facebook page.
- Two out-of-print Farwell Brown books **will be re-issued** in the near future. They are his first book, *Ames in Word and Pictures*, and *A Soldier's Life*.



Ames Christian School's 3rd and 4th graders visited the History Center in April. Staff member Alex Feifar engaged the students in activities.

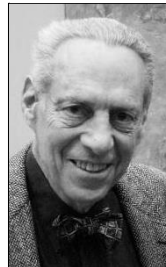
Update on Bequests

In the last newsletter, we wrote (gratefully) about bequests from Peter Reilly and Dottie McGee. These gifts have already had a big impact on our activities. The



Board has made decisions on what the gifts will support: two new building furnaces, a second flat-bed scanner that will double our capacity to digitally preserve materials and the balance to the Endowment, which returns money to operations annually. These gifts will support our mission for many years to come.

The Society also recently received the first disbursement from the estate of Burt Drexler, a long-time ISU faculty member in theater. Burt was a loyal member, donated



his time to give readings in his memorable stage voice and contributed one of his unique collections to ours. His bequest was split between Operations and the Building Fund - \$8,312 and \$45,125 respectively. There will be a second disbursement at a future moment. With our dreams of expanding to the second floor of our building and our need for collections storage, Burt's gift to the Building Fund has given us a significant jump-start. Hopefully, if we give thanks in our best theater voices, he will hear them!

Save the Date: Annual Benefit

The Annual Benefit Dinner is set for **Sat., August 25, 5:30 pm**. In keeping with the Ames High theme of the current exhibit, the event will take place in the Ames High cafeteria! In addition to the Farwell Brown Award, a new award, Ames History Maker, will acknowledge the impact certain individuals have had in shaping our community. Featured speaker will be 1976 graduate and Ames High Distinguished Alum, Brian Jenkins. Brian is a CNN correspondent and world traveler.

Gratefully acknowledging our
Executive Level Business Members:



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www.grandonfuneralandcremationcare.com

Society Wish List

Special thanks to Jim Dresser for funding archival boxes – something we endlessly need! Continued wishes:

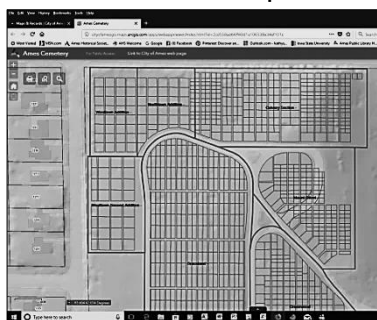
- Ames High Spirit yearbooks from 1953, 1978, 2015, 2016, 2017. And, any yearbooks pre-1930.
- Ames photos from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive)
- Ongoing subscription to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95)
- Funds for archival boxes (approximately \$13 each)
- Office and building supplies: computer printer paper, trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.
- Additional donations toward printing the new Campustown walking tour brochure in color

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing info@ameshistory.org.



Access Ames Burial Records Online

The Ames Municipal Cemetery has placed burial records on the City's website, www.cityofames.org. Go to Government>Ames Municipal Cemetery>Burial Search. The site features a map of the cemetery with each plot outlined – clicking on the plot brings up the records. Or, you can search by last name. This site has made searching for these records very convenient! The map also shows plots available.



Fall Cemetery Walk

A Cemetery Walk is in the works for this fall – likely a Sunday afternoon in late September or early October. Watch for a future announcement!

At the March Annual Meeting, the program featured a history of the cemetery to mark its 100th anniversary as a municipal entity. Sharon Wirth presented the program, ending with this lovely quote: *"Lives are commemorated, deaths recorded, families are reunited, memories made tangible and love is undisguised. This is a cemetery, a place where communities record respect, families bestow reverence; historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched. A cemetery is a history of a people, a history of an institution, a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth remembering."*

.....from a Vermont granite monument company brochure.

2017 Annual Report Highlights

Here are a few highlights from the 2017 Annual Report for those not able to attend the March 3 annual meeting.

- At 2017 year's end, **memberships** stood at 574.
- **119 volunteers** gave 5,746 hours of their time
- Capital **Improvement** Fund (aka Building Fund) \$3,538
- **Endowment** \$145,743, returning 5% to operations annually
- **2017 Income** - \$164,088: Memberships \$35,935, Donations/ Fund-raisers \$45,598, City/County \$41,833, Endowment \$5,996, earned income \$24,501, grants \$10, 225
- **2017 Expenses** - \$149,343: Facilities \$14,930, Personnel \$102,706, Administration \$13,126, Exhibits/ Collections \$18,581; **Net** +\$14,745.
Note: 2017 was originally budgeted to require money from reserves. It was a great relief to see that with your support, our finances ended up in the black!
- **113 programs** and open houses presented to 5,386 attendees – a new record!
- **13 project and event community partners**
- **1,807 visitors** to the Ames History Center
- **404 research requests** answered, from preservation advice, to home research, to photo requests
- **838 objects catalogued** and entered into our museum collections database
- **Exhibits** created and/or sponsored: World War II: Ames Doing Its Part, German Iowa and the Global Midwest, Pieced Fabric: Historic Quilts of Ames, In Trunks, Hands, and Hearts: What Immigrants Bring to Iowa, Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Years
- **Won** an Iowa Historic Resource Development Grant to complete a collections inventory project
- **Updated** the Strategic Plan
- Conducted a member **survey**
- **And much more!**

To see the complete 2017 Society Annual Report, go to www.ameshistory.org > About Us, then scroll all the way to the bottom of the page.

Gratefully acknowledging our
Executive Level Business Members:



H.L. MUNN
LUMBER CO.



Speaking of Burt Drexler (pg. 4) here he is (2nd left) in a 1958 picture taken in connection with that year's "Stars Over Veished" production. Yes, that is Ronald Reagan (2nd right)!



In connection with the "Fly With Banning" traveling exhibit, a two-man play was presented, telling the story of the two young African-American pilots who made a cross-country flight in 1932. The actors did an extraordinary job of staying in character while interacting with the audience!

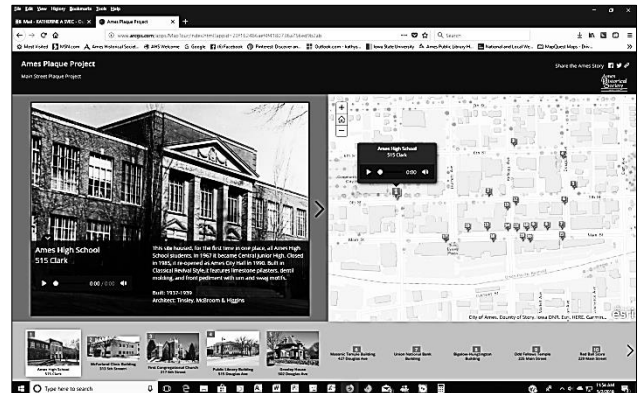


At the March lecture in our series, Marilyn Gibbs Alger gave a fascinating overview of the historic Cranford Apartments in Campustown at Lincoln Way and Stanton. It was constructed in 1922 for Iowa State faculty women, funded by them and designed by a woman architect. Marilyn is researching the noteworthy individuals who lived there. She hopes to make her extensive information available to others in some form.

It's Tour Season!

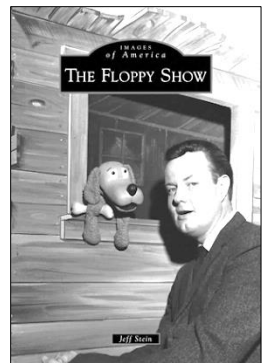
With the advent of nicer weather, we say, "Take a history walk!" In the Museum Shop are several walking tour guides:

- *From Tales to Tiles* – learn about downtown 5th Street's brick piers - \$1
- *History Walk through Downtown Ames* – noting the stories behind historic buildings - \$1
- *Historic Old Town District Tour Guide* - \$1
- *Campustown Walking Tour Guide* – free
- *Downtown Historic Plaques Guide* - free
- Also at www.ameshistory.org>Visit>Tours are the Old Town and Campustown guides.
- A well-illustrated tour of the plaques on historic buildings in downtown Ames is now on the Society's website. Go to www.ameshistory.org>Visit>Tours> click "start here." The tour takes a moment to load, but there is a map of plaque locations, a picture of each building that has a historic plaque, the text on the plaque and an audio clip of that text. Great fun!



Floppy Lives On

In 1957, WHO-TV in Des Moines asked staff performer Duane Ellett to help teach children how to better care for their pets. Ellett created Floppy, a high-voiced beagle dog puppet that became his sidekick for the next 30 years. The Floppy Show aired afternoons through parts of four decades. Ames kids recall the live studio audience of children telling Floppy riddles, beeping his nose for luck, and watching cartoons.



Author Jeff Stein's new book, *The Floppy Show*, is now available in our Museum Shop. Jeff will also talk about Floppy during his talk on Iowa Broadcasting on May 15, 7pm at the public library (see pg. 2).

Thanks to Board Members

The Society has been very fortunate to have a talented group of volunteers serve on its Board. In March, four multi-term Board members retired from their duties.

We would like to recognize and sincerely thank Jan, Ardy, Shannon and Hank for their dedicated service! Their efforts truly moved the organization forward.



Jan Breitman joined the Board in 2012. She is retired from the Iowa State Alumni Association and brought her organizational and hostess expertise to Society activities. She will continue to be part of the Membership Committee and will also continue as a front desk host.

Ardy Ulrichson joined the Board in 2012. She is retired from Iowa State's Student Orientation Office and like Jan, will continue on the Membership Committee and as a friendly front desk host. Ardy also was engaged in several ongoing research projects.



Shannon Bardole-Foley joined the Board in 2014. Shannon was a member of the United Way of Story County staff and a former interpreter at Living History Farms. She is also a broom and soap maker, using the traditional historic techniques. Shannon researched the Ames Mayors project that resulted in a lecture and exhibit. She served on the Hoggatt Committee.

Hank Zalatel joined the Board in 2015. He is the retired DOT librarian/archivist. Hank is an inveterate collector of historic Ames images which he has shared with the Society. He is co-creator and caretaker for the *Lost Ames* Facebook page and will continue to serve on the Collections Committee and as a front desk host.

Welcome!

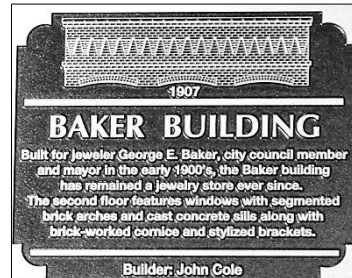
New to the Board is **Dan Franklin**. Dan is a long-time member of the Ames community and has been active with Ames Kiwanis. He brings extensive knowledge of our town to his new role and a strong record of volunteer service.

Calling For Nominees

The Nominating Committee still seeks additional Board members. Members interested in learning more about serving or who would like to place their name in nomination, may do so by calling 1-515-232-2148 or emailing info@ameshistory.org.

Plaque Project Is Ongoing

The Society, Ames Historic Preservation Commission and Main Street Cultural District is continuing with their project that places information plaques on downtown historic buildings. On page 6, there is information about the online tour that showcases the 21 plaques that have been placed so far. In process are plaques for the building that currently houses Moorman Clothiers, the one that used to house Tilden's Store, 131 Main (the former gas office) and Pantorium.



Also in the works is a large, color interpretive panel for the former Chicago & Northwestern RR Depot at Main and Clark. It will feature pictures, a timeline and other interesting facts about this once-bustling transportation hub. Funding for the plaque project comes from the Historic Preservation Commission's budget and donations by store owners.

Footnote: Pioneering African-American pilot, Herman Banning used to live on the second floor of the Moorman building.

◆◆◆

Gratefully acknowledging two more of our Executive Level Business Members:



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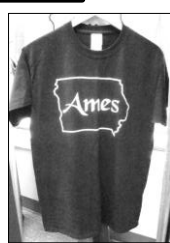
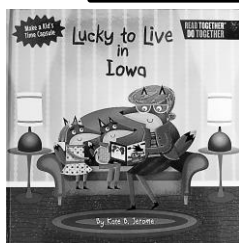
**BEST
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Ames Tribune

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Museum Shop



MEMBER BENEFIT:

15% off all shop items, all the time!

NEW BOOK TITLES:

Lucky To Live in Iowa, The Floppy Show, Younkers, the Friendly Store; Campustown: a Brief History.

ONONDAGA COFFEE:

The Shop has restocked our popular Onondaga Blend coffee, roasted especially for the Society by Burgie's Coffee in Ames. Combine a bag with a handmade pottery coffee mug for a great hostess gift.

AMES, IOWA TEE-SHIRT

Black or grey; just \$12

Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



The Museum Shop is well-stocked with many unique Ames-related items for gifts, teaching, wearing, playing and sipping. Stop in soon to see all we have to choose from.

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010